President's Death Brings Deep Sorrow, Shock And Indignation To State, Area

Area

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Register Staff Reporters

Sorrow and shock dogged tragedy's footsteps throughout the New Haven area today as citizens from all walks of life mourned the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The outpouring of emotion was one of spontaneious sincerity, mixed with apprehension of what Kennedy's death could mean during the crucial state of national and international affairs.

Sadness, indignation, a sense of awesome loss. All were woven through the fabric of reaction. It cloaked the area today with the pervasivesness of a gloomy fog.

Most acutely and directly affected by the tragic Dallas shooting of the President were Democratic political leaders, fully

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State

By LEE GRABAR
Register Staff Reporter

Grief at the tragic loss of President Kennedy and "outrage at the senseless act of the assassin" were expressed at the State Capitol Friday by Gov. John N. Dempsey.

In statements issued from points throughout the state and from Washington, Connecticut figures on the state and national political scene were united in giving voice to hearfelt sorrow and a deep sense of loss in the President's death.

Some had longtime and close associations with the President, in a few cases dating back to his early days in Congress in the 1940's.

In fact, Connecticut has felt a kinship to the President that was born when state Democrats took key roles in launching his presidential candidacy in 1960.

One of these men, now U. S.

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Senator Abraham A. Ribicoff, called Kennedy's death "a tragedy of unimaginable proportions."

Another, Democratic national chairman John Bailey said:

"As others have said, President Kennedy's death is a tragedy which stuns us all. This is a time for mourning and a time for affirming our support of the new president.

"As personal friends of Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Bailey and I extend our sincere condolences to the family of the assassinated president."

U. S. Senator Thomas J. Dodd said "the nation has lost a great President."

Republicans Saddened

Republicans mourned the death with equal feeling. Horace Seely-Brown Jr., a former congressman who shared the beginning of his career with then Congressman Kennedy in 1947, said the tragedy "brought a deep and real sorrow to every American."

State GOP Chairman A. Searle Pinney called the assassination an "atrocity." All America was "deeply saddened."

Statements follow:

Dempsey Statement

Gov. Dempsey: "The death of President Kennedy is a great loss not only to our nation but to all men who fight for freedom throughout the world.

"President Kennedy was a great and beloved champion of liberty and human rights. He has been taken from us at a time when his courage, his wisdom and his dedication to mankind are most thoroughly needed.

"I know that I speak for every citizen of Connecticut in expressing outrage at the senseless act of the assassin, grief in our great loss and the deepest sympathy for the President's family.

"In this hour of crisis, may all Americans unite behind President Johnson. Let us all pray to Almighty God to give him the strength he will need to carry on the causes to which President Kennedy gave his life."

Giant of Man

Sen. Ribicoff: "Together with all the grieving nation, our prayers and heart as go out to Mrs. Kennedy and their family. President Kennedy was a giant of a man and a great leader devoted to world peace and the good of his countrymen. His death is a tragedy of unimaginable proportions. His memory and works will live on forever in the hearts of the nation. Our prayers go out to President Lyndon Johnson."

U. S. Ambassador to India Chester Bowles:

"His loss is going to be a very profound one because of the deep respect people had for him. He was recognized as a man who had the courage to stand firmly against aggression and at the same time, work with great ability to create conditions which would bring world peace a little closer.

"I would like to emphasize the extraordinary shock to the people abroad, including India, South Asia and East Asia."

Seely-Brown: "The death of President Kennedy which came with such tragic suddenness has brought a deep and real sorrow to everry American. Having served my freshman term in the 80th Congress with Mr. Kennedy, my personal friendship has been one of many years.

"Mrs. Seely-Brown joins with me in extending my deepest sympathy to Mrs. Kennedy and the children."

All Americans Shocked

Pinney: "All Americans are shocked to the core and deeply saddened by the terrible tragedy . . . it is hard to believe that in a civilized society such an atrocity can occur . . ."

Sen. Dodd; "The nation has lost a great president and the people of the world have lost a friend . . . the death of this great leader confronts our country with a grave crisis . . . it is the duty of every American . . . to pull together for the common good to put patriotism first and to help the new president in this hour of tragedy."

U.S. Rep. William St. Onge: "I can't bring myself to realize that our country and the world have suffered this great tragic loss . . . I pray that God will give his wife and family the strength to bear this bereavement."

U.S. Rep. John Monagan: "I feel a very personal sense of loss . . . his tragic death is a loss to our whole country . . ."

Former U.S. Sen. Prescott Bush: "Mrs. Bush and I are shocked and distressed by the loss of our president . . . we join in assurances of warmest sympathy for Mrs. Kennedy and all the family."

U.S. Rep. Abner W. Sibal: "Along with every American, I am shocked by the terrible assassination of President Kennedy . . . I pledge my complete cooperation to President Johnson as he undertakes the great task that lies before him."

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aware of the multitudinous ramifications of the President's death.

Joining them in expressions of general dismay at the tragic turn were religious, business and labor spokesmen, all aware that the death of a president touches all citizens.

Mayor Richard C. Lee termed Kennedy's death "a loss not only to America, but all of the free world, and, indeed, to the cause of man everywhere."

Obviously shaken by the tragic event, Lee said, "America has lost a leader and a great one. Thousands of people have lost a friend. What can be said except God have mercy on his soul."

Le has had strong connections with Kennedy, both personaly and politically. Only a month ago, he visited personally with Kennedy in connection with the President's announcement of a Federal, grant to New Haven. Lee also campaigned for Kennedy in 1960 and was an adviser to the President on urban affairs. Lee also reportedly had opportunities in the past to join the Kennedy administration in an official post.

A note of angered indignation was mixed with the shock and dismay expressed by Democratic National Committeeman John M. Golden, of New Haven.

Golden Incensed

Golden, long a prominent figure in politics at both state and national levels, made it plain he was incensed at the lack of respect for law and order implicit in the assassination.

"I'm of course shocked and saddened," said Golden, who learned of the tragic event in a barbershop.

"I feel strongly aroused, however, that this young, vigorous and able president has had to give his life to awaken us to a condition too long prevalent in the United States — that is a lack of respect for law and order."

Golden said, "It's a pretty sorry situation when a man of the President's caliber can be brought to such a tragic end through attitudes which seem to encourage defiance of and disrespect for leaders."

"All you can do is pray and that's what I'm doing," said a saddened Democratic Town Chairman Arthur T. Barbieri when asked for comment on the assassination.

Contacted at home where he was following the bulletins, Barbieri thought out loud, "'To think that anyone would do anything like this.'" It's incomprehensible was the way Barbieri felt.

The country is "'left paralyzed,'" he said.

"Deeply shocked and grieved" by the death was Congressman Robert N. Giaimo, D-3rd Dist.

"Our nation, indeed, the entire free world, has lost a truly great man. There is nothing more we can do for our beloved President but to swear to God and man that this nation will assure that the goals for which he stood and for which he gave his life will be perpetuated in the hearts and minds and actions of men everywhere.

"'My thoughts and prayers are with his family,'" said Giaimo.

All Affected

Speaking for the area's business community, Robert I. Metcalf, president of the New Haven Chamber of Commerce, felt that "all industrial and commercial interests cannot help but be seriously affected by this dastardly act."

Personally, continued the Olin-Mathieson executive, "'I am deeply shocked at this tragic turn of events during this crucial period in our history.'"

Recalling that he had watched a television program Thursday night showing the precautions being taken by Dallas police for the President's visit, Republican Town Chairman Henry J. DeVita wondered "What in the world happened?"

Like everyone else, DeVita's initial response was one of shock. "This is awful," he said.

"I didn't think it possible in this day and age that a President of the United States would be attacked," sail New Haven's GOP leader.

K of C Tribute

A tribute to Kennedy as "the most distinguished member of our Order," and an expression of deep loss came from Luke E. Hart, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus whose Supreme Headquarters are in New Haven.

"'The members of the Knights of Columbus are overwhelmed with grief at the loss occasioned by the assassination of President Kennedy,'" said Hart.

"He was kindly, considerate, patient and understanding. His qualities of heart and mind were befitting the magnificent attainments of his remarkable career. In the light of the most searching scrutiny, he met every test, intellectual, cultural, humane, religious, patriotic.

"Our hearts go out in sympathy to his stricken family, to our nation, to all mankind. May his soul rest in peace."

Williams Shocked

Earl I. Williams, vice president of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said "I was shocked. I feel that the President's death can be blamed on his stand about the racial situation. The man who did this is a violent, heinous individual."

Sister Marie Louise, O.P., president of the city's Roman Catholic Albertus Magnus College, stated: "The administration, faculty and students of Albertus Magnus College are shocked and grieved at the tragic death of our President.

"Our nation has lost a great President and leader, and the world is deprived of a magnanimous friend."

Extend Sympathy

"We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Kennedy and the entire family and assure them of our prayers in their great sorrow."

Irving Enson, president of the New Haven Jewish Community Council, said:

"The shocking death of President Kennedy is a great and grievous loss to the world and to all men of good will. He gave unparalleled strength, dedication and courage to the creativity of the American community.

"His compassion for his fellow man, his profound sensitivity to the needs of our times and his unceasing commitment to social justice were in the noblest traditions of our Judaic-Christian heritage.'"

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph F. Donnelly, pastor of St. John said:

"The shattering news of the tragic death of the President has shocked the nation and the world as few events in history. As citizens, we share the sorrow and the loss of Mrs. Kennedy. The President now belongs to God and his mercy. All of us owe him the duty of our prayers."

"What can you say?" was the first reaction of the Rev. James H. Burns, executive director of the New Haven Council of Churches.

"'It's just about the most tragic thing that could happen to the country at this time,'" he continued.

The Rev. Mr. Burns said he is taking it for granted that people will be in the places of worship today and Sunday "praying for his family and for the country, because his family and this country needs their prayers."

Using President Kennedy's death as the theme for his sermon Friday night, Rabbbi Robert Goldburg of Hamden's Congregation Mishkan Israel quoted the late Franklin D. Roosevelt by repeating, "This is a day that will live in infamy."

Rabbi Goldburg labelled the tragedy as a "blow to the forces of reason, racial justice and peace throughout the world."

He continued, "Nothing can compensate for this heinous crime and tragic loss. But the memory of a young and vigorous president who asked us to dedicate ourselves to our country will remain ever fresh so long as we pursue the goals of rqcial equality and justice for all."

Rabbi Goldburg said "it is important to summon our resources with greater determination than ever before to see to it that the causes for which President Kennedy gave his life are furthered by the American people.'"